

DAVID • RAIMONDI • REBER

X-FACTOR®



RATED T+



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DIRECT EDITION

PABLO AND REBER 2009

EVERYBODY
LIES.

I'VE DONE IT. YOU HAVE,
TOO. SO DON'T ACT HOLIER
THAN THOU. NOT WITH ME.

FOR I AM
HOLIER BY FAR
THAN YOU.

FOR I AM GOD'S CHOSEN,
AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT GOD
DOES WITH HIS CHOSEN?

HE TESTS
THEM.

I LIED IN ORDER TO
ACCOMPLISH HIS AIMS, HIS
GOALS. WHAT MORE NOBLE
REASON FOR DISSEMBLING
CAN THERE BE THAN THAT?

HE TESTED MY RESOLVE BY
ASKING THAT I DO THOSE
THINGS. AND IF I DIDN'T HAVE
PROOF OF THAT BEFORE...

I DO NOW. BECAUSE
AGAINST ALL ODDS...
AGAINST ALL
RATIONAL CHANCE...

... HE HAS REWARDED
ME. HE HAS REWARDED
HIS SERVANT.

IN A SOCIETY WHERE MUTANTS AND FORMER MUTANTS ALIKE FEEL THREATENED BY THE WORLD AROUND THEM, THEY TURN TO THEIR FIRST, BEST LINE OF DEFENSE. WHENEVER TROUBLE ARISES, X-FACTOR, THE PRIVATE DETECTIVE AGENCY FOUNDED BY MADROX, THE MULTIPLE MAN.

X-FACTOR

WHEN WE LAST LEFT OUR HEROES...



JOSEF HUBER, A.K.A. THE ISOLATIONIST, IS TRYING TO CONVINCE X-FACTOR THAT MUTANTS CAN BE DECLARED AN "ENDANGERED SPECIES" UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973, AND THUS BE AVAILABLE FOR FULL GOVERNMENT PROTECTION FROM ALL HARASSMENT. HE APPEARS TO BE SUCCEEDING. RAHNE TRIES TO CONVINCE RICTOR THAT THEIR HAY ROLL WAS MERELY BECAUSE SHE PITIED HIM...BUT ALL SHE SUCCEEDED IN DOING WAS JUMPING HIS BONES AGAIN.

MONET AND SIRYN WERE CONVINCED THAT THEY COULD EASILY ROUND UP WALLY AND MOLLY, THE CHEERY TWINS WHO SING MUTANT HATE-SONGS, IN ORDER TO ENFORCE THE KIDS' GRANDPARENTS' COURT-GRANTED VISITATION RIGHTS. THEY ONLY SUCCEEDED IN GETTING JUMPED AND ABANDONED BY THE KIDS' BODYGUARDS, SOLO AND CLAY.

LAYLA IS CONVINCED THAT SHE HAS TO TAKE SOME SORT OF ACTION OVER THE POSITIVE PREGNANCY TEST DISCOVERED AT X-FACTOR HEADQUARTERS. BUT SHE ONLY SUCCEEDS IN GETTING HERSELF COLDCOCKED BY NICOLE, WHO MENTIONS THAT HUBER WANTS LAYLA DEAD RIGHT BEFORE DUMPING HER IN A RIVER IN CENTRAL PARK, LEAVING HER FOR DEAD.

X-FACTOR (ISSN #1932-3266) No. 23, November, 2007. Published Monthly except semi-monthly in January by MARVEL PUBLISHING, INC., a subsidiary of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT, INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 417 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10016. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. © 2007 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. \$2.99 per copy in the U.S. and \$3.75 in Canada (GST #R127032852) in the direct market and \$3.99 per copy in the U.S. and \$5.75 in Canada (GST #R127032852) through the newsstand. Canadian Agreement #40666537. Canadian Agreement #40666537. Printed in the USA. Subscription rate (U.S. dollars) for 12 issues: U.S. \$27.00; Canada \$37.00; Foreign \$39.00. POSTMASTER: SEND ALL ADDRESS CHANGES TO X-FACTOR, C/O MARVEL SUBSCRIPTION DEPT. P.O. BOX 110 NEWBURGH, NY 12550. TELEPHONE # (800) 217-9158, FAX # (845) 457-5029. subscriptions@marvelsubs.com. ALAN FINE, CEO Marvel Toys & Publishing Divisions and CMO Marvel Entertainment, Inc.; DAVID GABRIEL, Senior VP of Publishing Sales & Circulation; DAVID BOGART, VP of Business Affairs & Editorial Operations; MICHAEL PASCUOLO, VP Merchandising & Communications; JIM BOYLE, VP of Publishing Operations; DAN O'NEAL, Executive Director of Publishing Technology; JUSTIN F. GABRIEL, Managing Editor; SUSAN GRESPI, Production Manager; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact Joe Malinone, Advertising Director, at jmalinone@marvel.com or 212-576-8534. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 800-217-9158.



COME ON, COME ON...

YOU DON'T GET AWAY FROM ME BY DYING THIS EASILY.



COME ON, DAMMIT! COME—



«KOFFFFFFF»
«ACCKK!»



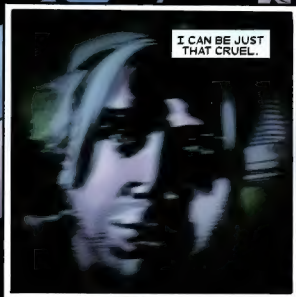
I KNEW IT.
I KNEW YOU'D SURVIVE.

MATTERS BETWEEN US COULDN'T BE ENDED BY HAVING SOMEONE ELSE DO IN MY NEMESIS.

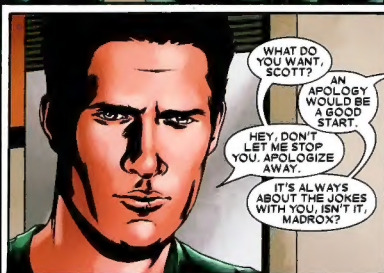
GOD WOULDN'T BE THAT CRUEL.

Q...Quick... silver...?

YES. I AM QUICKSILVER... PIETRO MAXIMOFF... SON OF THE DEMON... AND I...



I CAN BE JUST THAT CRUEL.





FIFTY SCOTT SUMMERS.
POOR FELLOW THINKS
HE UNDERSTANDS HOW
THE WORLD WORKS.

LOOK AT HIM, COMPLAINING
OF BEING ILL-USED...HAVING
NO IDEA WHY HE'S HERE.



IRONICALLY, THOSE
WHO SUMMONED HIM...WHO
THINK THEY DO KNOW...

...ARE AS
CLUELESS
AS HE.

ONLY I
UNDERSTAND
WHAT IS TRULY
GOING ON.



GREETINGS,
MR. SUMMERS.

THE
NAME IS JOSEF
HUBER.

I AM A MAN
OF VISION, NOT
SO FORMIDABLE A
VISION AS YOURS,
PERHAPS...

YOU DON'T
SEE ME KNOCKING
PEOPLE OVER WITH
A MERE GLANCE.

BUT IDEAS CAN
KNOCK PEOPLE OVER
AS WELL...AND IDEAS,
MR. SUMMERS, I HAVE
IN ABUNDANCE.

THE ISOLATIONIST

PART III: TRUE OR FALSE

PETER DAVID **PABLO RAIMONDI** **BRIAN REBER** **VC'S CORY PETIT**

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PICTURE THIS, IF YOU WILL: EVERY MUTANT WHO STILL EXISTS... EVERYONE WHO WAS A MUTANT... EVERYONE WHO HOPES TO BE ONE AGAIN...

A MILLION MUTANT MARCH, IF YOU WILL...

ADVANCING ON THE WHITE HOUSE AND DEMANDING--THROUGH SPEECHES, DEMONSTRATIONS AND THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO PEACEFULLY ASSEMBLE--

THAT MUTANTKIND BE ACCORDED THE SAME RIGHTS AS ANY OTHER ENDANGERED SPECIES.



I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THIS, MR. HUBER, WAS IT? MR. HUBER...

THE GOVERNMENT HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN LESS AN ALLY OF OUR RACE THAN A...WELL, AN OPPONENT.

THE NOTION OF OUR GOING TO THEM HAT IN HAND, ASKING FOR HELP...



WHAT'S WRONG WITH CITIZENS ASKING THE GOVERNMENT FOR AID?

IN HIS ATTEMPT TO DISMISS THE NOTION OUT OF HAND, HE HESITATES...

AND AS THE SAYING GOES, HE WHO HESITATES...



...IS LOST.



OKAY. YOU'VE GOT MY ATTENTION. TELL ME MORE.

PERFECT. LET HIM THINK THAT HE DETERMINES WHAT DOES AND DOES NOT INTEREST HIM... JUST AS THE FISH BELIEVES HE CHOOSES WHETHER OR NOT TO SNAP AT THE HOOK.

NOW...REEL HIM IN.

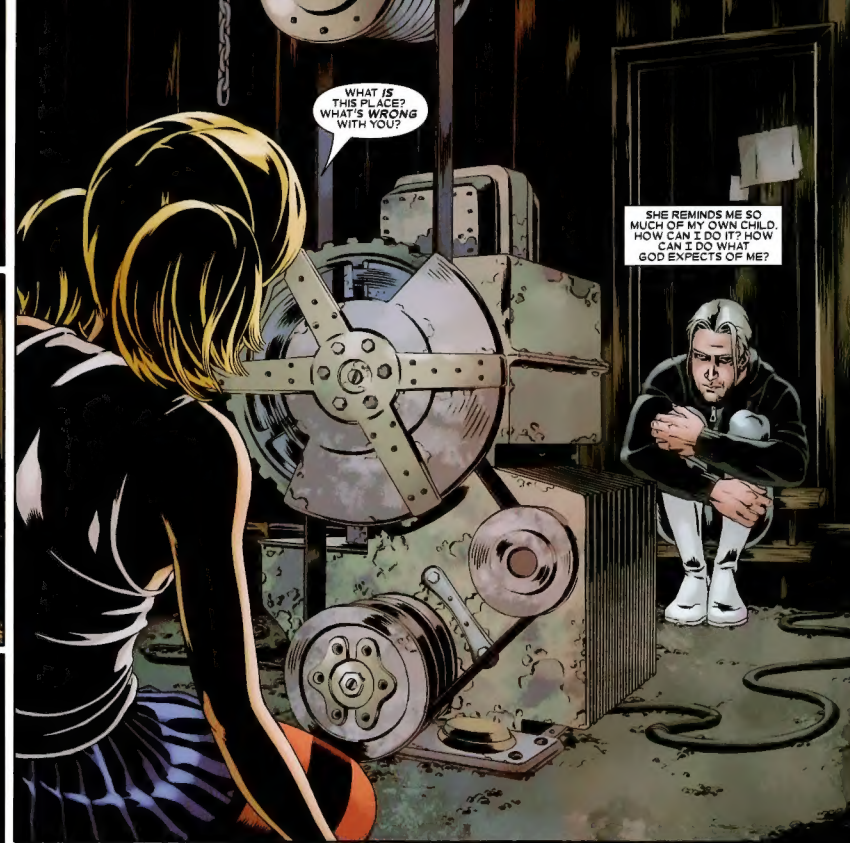


MMMM...?
WHAT...?
WHERE...?



PIETRO...?
I... WASN'T
DREAMING...?

SHE LOOKS SO INNOCENT.
SO DAMNED INNOCENT.
ONE WOULD NEVER KNOW
SHE'S A TOOL OF SATAN.



WHAT IS
THIS PLACE?
WHAT'S WRONG
WITH YOU?

SHE REMINDS ME SO
MUCH OF MY OWN CHILD.
HOW CAN I DO IT? HOW
CAN I DO WHAT
GOD EXPECTS OF ME?

LOOK AT MY HANDS. THEY CAN'T STOP
SHAKING. TREMBLING OVER THE
PROSPECT OF WHAT MUST BE DONE.

AND I HAVE TO BE THE ONE TO DO IT.
JUST AS ABRAHAM WAS EXPECTED TO SHOW
HIS DEVOTION BY SLAYING HIS OWN SON.

MINE MUST BE THE HANDS
TO REMOVE THE DEVIL FROM
HIS SPHERE. HER BLOOD
MUST BE ON MY HANDS, NO
OTHERS. IT'S THE ONLY WAY
TO BALANCE THE SCALES.



TO ATONE FOR
MY FAILURE.



FATE DRAWS US TO EACH
OTHER. LAYLA MILLER, LIKE
TWIN STARS, BURNING OUT
OF CONTROL.



WHY ARE
YOU TREMBLING?
IT'S NOT COLD IN
HERE.

I DON'T
KNOW. I CAN'T
MAKE IT STOP.

I THINK
I'M ILL.

I
THINK... I'M
DYING.



I'VE BEEN
FOUND WANTING.
BUT I HAVE A CHANCE
TO REDEEM MYSELF.
TO PROVE MY
WORTHINESS AND
SAVE MY LIFE.

HOW?



BY
TAKING
YOURS!



ONCE UPON A TIME, I COULD
HAVE MOVED LIKE LIGHTNING.
SLAIN HER BEFORE SHE EVER
KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING.

NOW...



WHA--?

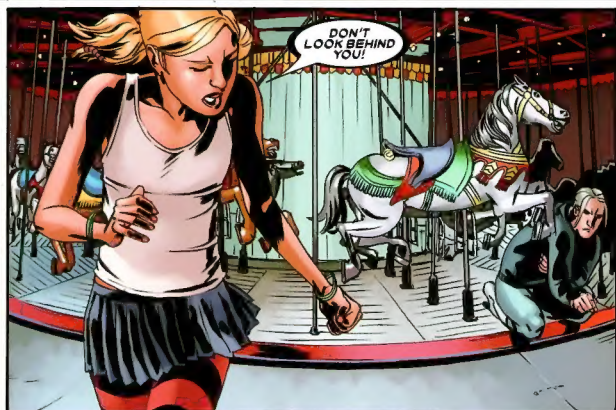
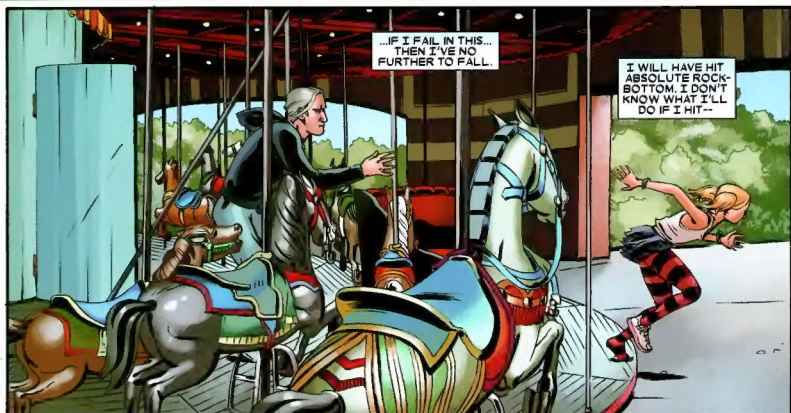


ARRHHH!!!

NOW I HAVE TO
LUNGE AFTER HER LIKE
AN ARTHRITIC SNAIL.

YEAH.
THAT WAS A
MISTAKE.







HIS MIND
CONTROL... MY
INFLUENCE...
ISN'T PERFECT.



IF THEY COULD STEP
OUT OF THEIR OWN HEADS,
HEAR THEIR RESPONSES,
THEY WOULD REALIZE THEY
SOUND INCREDULOUS,
EVEN OUT OF CHARACTER.



FORTUNATELY, THEY CAN'T.
THE ONLY ONES WHO COULD
ARE OTHER TELEPATHS.



WHAT "LUCK" THERE
ARE NO TELEPATHS
AROUND TO BE.



SUSPICIOUS.
PARDON?
RICTOR...?

I'M SORRY,
IT'S JUST...THE
MORE THAT I HEAR
ABOUT THIS...THE
MORE I'M...

IT JUST
SOUNDS TOO GOOD
TO BE TRUE.
Y'KNOW? TOO EASY.



I CAN
APPRECIATE THAT,
RICTOR. I CAN.

AFTER
EVERYTHING ALL
OF YOU HAVE BEEN
THROUGH, IT'S NATURAL
THAT YOU WOULD
LOOK A GIFT HORSE
IN THE MOUTH.



AND I WON'T LIE TO YOU: IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY.

IT'S GOING TO BE A VERY TOUGH ROAD.



BUT REALLY... WHAT WORTHWHILE ACHIEVEMENT *ISN'T* DIFFICULT? INDEED, IT'S THE DIFFICULTY THAT MAKES IT WORTHWHILE. WOULDN'T YOU SAY?



ABSOLUTELY. AND I THINK THIS IDEA... IT'S BRILLIANT.

IF IT WERE ANY MORE BRILLIANT, I'D HAVE COME UP WITH IT MYSELF.



SO YOU'LL TAKE IT TO YOUR PEOPLE, THEN?

I'LL HELP SPREAD THE WORD, YES.

HOW LONG DO YOU THINK IT WILL TAKE TO ORGANIZE THIS "MILLION MUTANT MARCH"?



A FEW WEEKS. CERTAINLY, THE SOONER THE BETTER. DON'T YOU ALL AGREE?

DEFINITELY.

OH, AYE

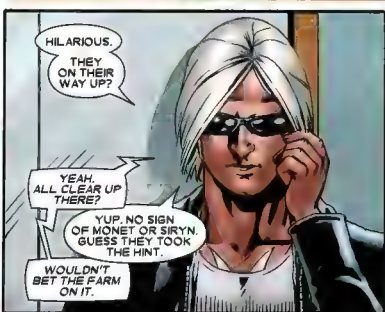
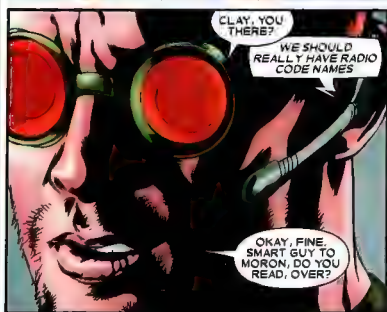
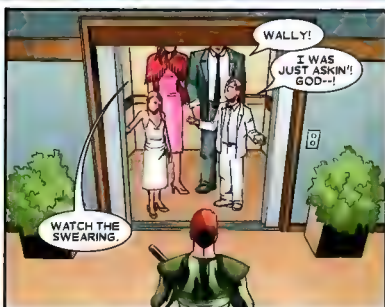
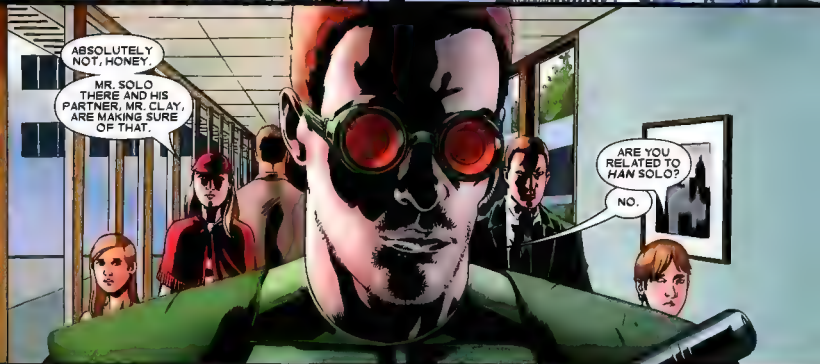
YOU SAID IT

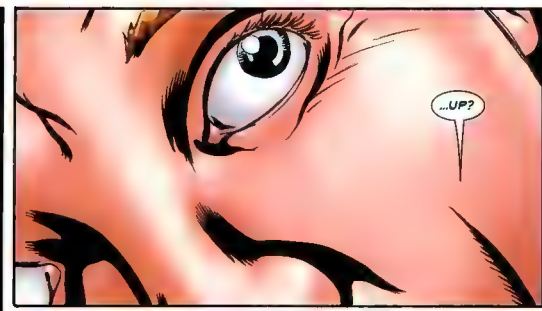
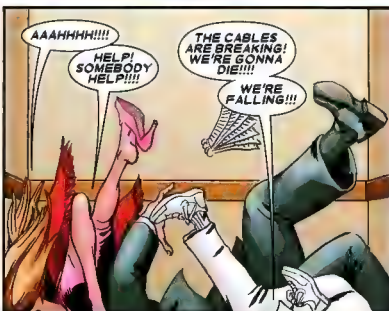
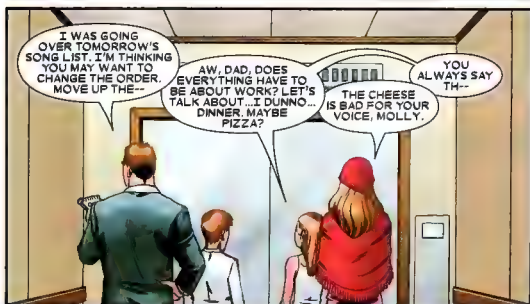
I AM SO THERE.

ODD. ODD THAT RICTOR SEEMS SLOW TO COME AROUND. THE FACT THAT HE HAS NO POWERS SHOULDN'T GIVE HIM ANY IMMUNITY TO MY INFLUENCE.



PERHAPS IF HE DOESN'T DIE, I'LL LOOK INTO THAT.



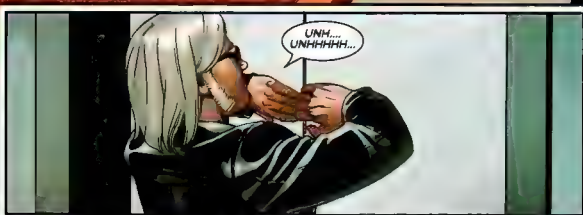




SOMETHING'S
WRONG! SOMETHING'S
WRONG WITH THE
ELEVATOR!

WHAT
IS IT?

I DON'T
KNOW! HOLD
ON--!



UNH...
UNHHHHH...



OOOOOOFFF!




SOLO!
SMART MOVE
THERE, NOT
BETTING THE
FARM.



WHY? WHAT
THE HELL
HAPPENED?

THEY GOT THE
ELEVATOR...

...AND
WE GOT THE
SHAFT



I'D SAY THAT
"OPERATION WONKAVATOR"
IS A SUCCESS, WOULDN'T
YOU?

THE
GRANDPARENTS
ARE ALREADY AT THE
RENDEZVOUS
POINT.

GOOD. THIS
SHOULD BE AN
INTERESTING
REUNION.

YOU REALIZE
WE'RE ADDING KIDNAPPING
AND DESTRUCTION OF
PRIVATE PROPERTY TO
OUR RAP SHEET.

I KNOW
EXCITING,
ISN'T IT.



HI,
IT'S ME.

THEY GOT
THE KIDS, JUST AS
YOU EXPECTED, SO
THAT SHOULD KEEP
THEM OCCUPIED FOR
AWHILE LONGER.



EXCELLENT.
GOOD TO HEAR.
KEEP ME
APPRISED.



GOOD
NEWS?

YES, BUT
NOTHING THAT
NEED CONCERN
YOU.



SO THIS IS
ALL GOING
WELL, I
THINK.

HOLD
ON.

RING



X-FACTOR
INVESTIGATIONS.



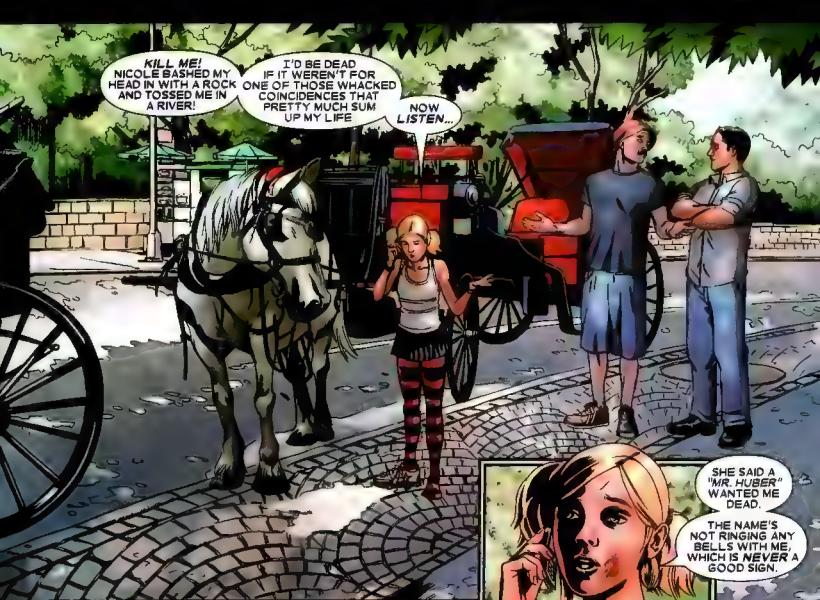
LAYLA!
WHERE THE
HELL HAVE
YOU BEEN?



WILL YOU
SLOW DOWN!
I DON'T...

SHE
TRIED TO
WHAT?!

OH, DEAR.
THIS DOESN'T
BODE WELL.



KILL ME!
NICOLE BASHED MY
HEAD IN WITH A ROCK
AND TOSSED ME IN
A RIVER!

I'D BE DEAD
IF IT WEREN'T FOR
ONE OF THOSE WHACKED
COINCIDENCES THAT
PRETTY MUCH SUM
UP MY LIFE

NOW
LISTEN...



SHE SAID A
'MR. HUBER'
WANTED ME
DEAD.

THE NAME'S
NOT RINGING ANY
BELLS WITH ME,
WHICH IS NEVER A
GOOD SIGN.



AS SOON
AS I GET BACK,
I'LL RUN THE NAME
THROUGH ALL OUR
DATABASES. SEE IF
I CAN FIND HIM.

ACTUALLY...

LOCATING
THAT INDIVIDUAL
SHOULDN'T BE A
PROBLEM.

AH WELL, X-FACTOR
SERVED ITS PURPOSE: TO BRING
ME FACE TO FACE WITH MORE
INFLUENTIAL MUTANTS, OUT OF
THE RANGE OF TELEPATHS WHO
COULD SENSE MY INFLUENCE



LOOK...
I'LL CALL YOU
BACK.

THIS
ISN'T MY...
KLIK



IT'S A SHAME, REALLY. IN A
WAY, I'VE BECOME SOMEWHAT
FOND OF THEM..

...DESPITE THE FACT THAT
THEY, AND EVERYONE
LIKE THEM, HAVE MADE MY
LIFE A LIVING HELL.

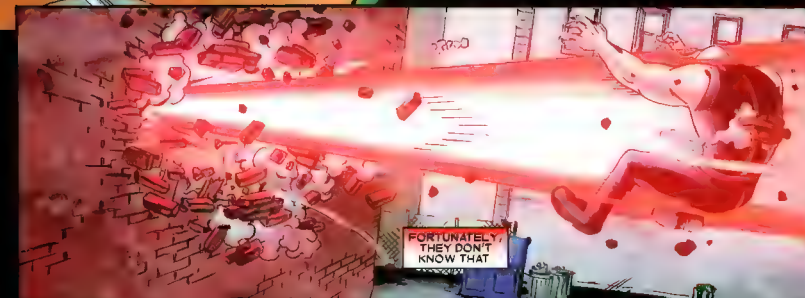


AH, WELL...

NOTHING TO
BE DONE ABOUT
IT NOW

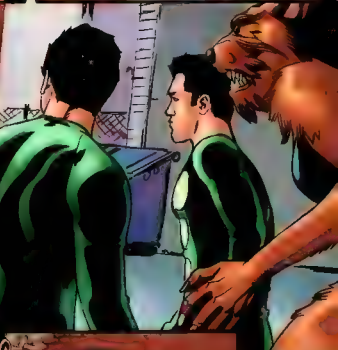
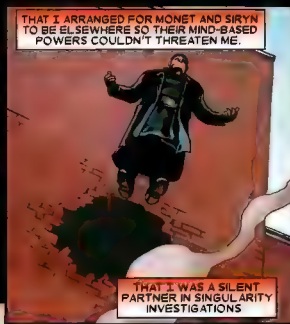
OF COURSE, THE
PROBLEM IS THAT I
CAN'T KILL THEM

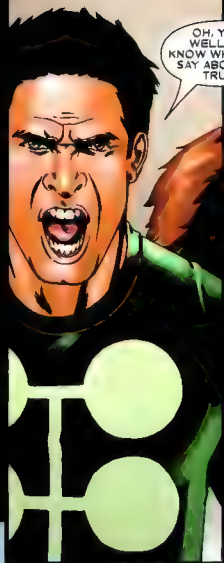
SO I'M SOME-
WHAT LIMITED IN
MY OPTIONS.



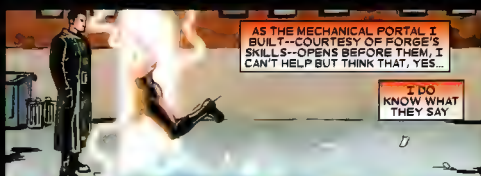
FORTUNATELY,
THEY DON'T
KNOW THAT







OH, YEAH?
WELL...YOU
KNOW WHAT THEY
SAY ABOUT THE
TRUTH!



AS THE MECHANICAL PORTAL I
BUILT--COURTESY OF FORGE'S
SKILLS--OPENS BEFORE THEM, I
CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT, YES...

I DO
KNOW WHAT
THEY SAY



THE
TRUTH...



...HURTS.



Witness the death of a species...

X-MEN: ENDANGERED SPECIES is a 17-part limited series consisting of 8-page backup stories that run weekly in the pages of the X-titles (UNCANNY X-MEN, X-MEN, X-FACTOR and NEW X-MEN). Hank McCoy, as the preeminent scientific mind in the mutant community, searches for a way to reverse the disastrous effects of M-Day. But as he draws closer to an answer, what price will he have to pay for the chance to be a savior?

PREVIOUSLY IN ENDANGERED SPECIES:

Since M-Day, BEAST has labored to find a cure for the loss of the mutant gene to no avail. During his quest, he stumbled upon the monstrous DARK BEAST, his twisted counterpart from an alternate dimension, and his only equal in the field of mutant genetics. They joined forces to find a cure, a move Beast hopes will benefit mutantkind, although he fears it will cost him his soul in the process.

They explored the darkest corners of the mutant world together: the concentration camp NEVERLAND, the PROJECT BLACK WOMB facility, the mass grave of GENOSHA, and most recently, the ghetto of MUTANT TOWN. There Beast learned the mutant DNA in the drug MGH (Mutant Growth Hormone) was rendered inert by Wanda's spell, which seems to be nearly all encompassing. But he learned something else as well.

The X-Man BISHOP retained his powers on M-Day – as did most all the mutants from alternate dimensions or timelines.

Is this the breakthrough Beast has waited for?



DALLAS, TEXAS.

EAGLE PLAZA.
HEADQUARTERS
OF FORGE.

I'VE
CHECKED, FORGE.
IT'S TRUE FOR
EVERY LAST ONE
OF THEM.

BISHOP,
THE SUGAR MAN,
THE "DARK BEAST,"
MARVEL GIRL,
CABLE.

ALL CAME
HERE FROM
ALTERNATE TIMELINES,
AND ALL RETAINED
THEIR POWERS
ON M-DAY.

endangered Species

CHAPTER
11

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EDITOR IN CHIEF

DAN
BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

SPECIAL THANKS TO MIKE CARLEY AND ANDY SCHMIDT



IN FACT, I
CAN'T THINK OF A
SINGLE MUTANT FROM
AN ALTERNATE TIMELINE
WHO LOST THEIR
POWERS.

THEY WERE
PROTECTED
SOMEHOW, PERHAPS
BY TEMPORAL OR
EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL
ENERGY.

IF WE CAN
DETERMINE WHAT
SAVED THEM, PERHAPS
WE CAN REVERSE
WHAT HAPPENED TO
THE OTHERS.



BUT IT'S NOT REALLY
MY FIELD. I KNOW YOU'VE
DONE RESEARCH IN
THIS AREA--

WELL, YOU'RE RIGHT.
I HAVE T'VE ALREADY
LOOKED INTO THIS...
AND AS FAR AS I CAN
TELL, IT'S JUST A
COINCIDENCE.

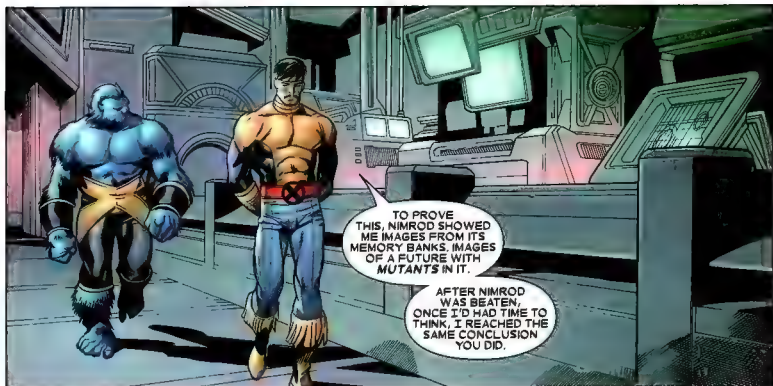
I KNOW
SOMETHING ABOUT
CHRONAL ENERGY, AND I
KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT
MAGIC. THE ONE DOESN'T
OFFER PROTECTION
FROM THE
OTHER.

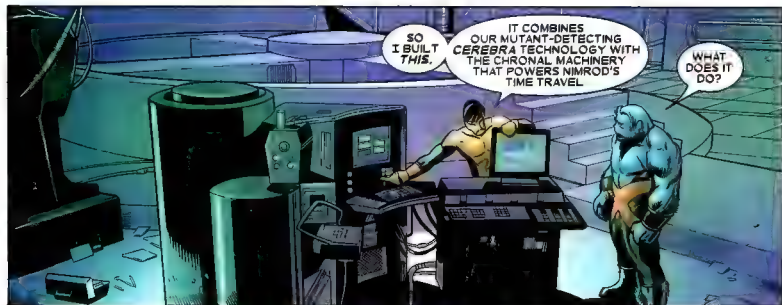
...BUT IT
GETS WORSE,
HANK.



NOT LONG
AGO, THE
MUTANT-HUNTING
ROBOT CALLED NIMROD
CONFRONTED ME HERE
IT WANTED ME TO REPAIR
IT, BECAUSE I'D
ALREADY DONE SO
SUCCESSFULLY..

..IN THE
FUTURE, WHEN
I'LL HAVE A
FAMILY IT CAN
THREATEN TO MAKE
ME COMPLY.

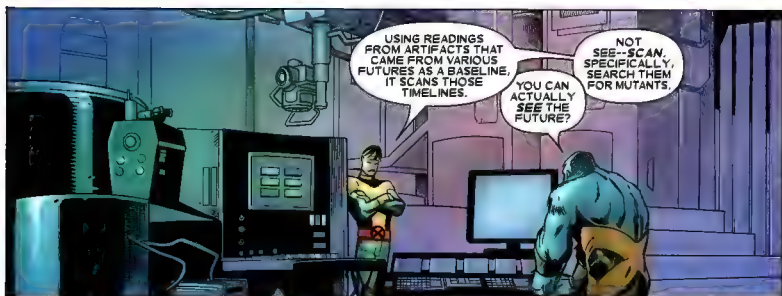




SO
I BUILT
THIS.

IT COMBINES
OUR MUTANT-DETECTING
CEREBRA TECHNOLOGY WITH
THE CHRONAL MACHINERY
THAT POWERS NIMROD'S
TIME TRAVEL.

WHAT
DOES IT
DO?



USING READINGS
FROM ARTIFACTS THAT
CAME FROM VARIOUS
FUTURES AS A BASELINE,
IT SCANS THOSE
TIMELINES.

YOU CAN
ACTUALLY
SEE THE
FUTURE?

NOT
SEE--SCAN.
SPECIFICALLY,
SEARCH THEM
FOR MUTANTS.



BUT...BUT
THESE ARE
ALL...

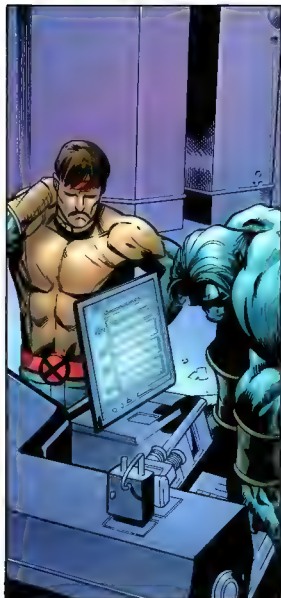
FLATLINED.
YES.

AS OF
NOW--I'D
GUESS
EVER SINCE
M-DAY--



--EITHER
THESE FUTURES
NO LONGER
EXIST...

...OR THEY
DO...AND THERE
ARE NO MUTANTS
IN THEM.





MOTEL

NO VACANCY

Motel
HOTEL

"HELLO,
HENRY"

DID YOU
HAVE FUN
PLAYING WITH
YOUR LITTLE
FRIENDS?

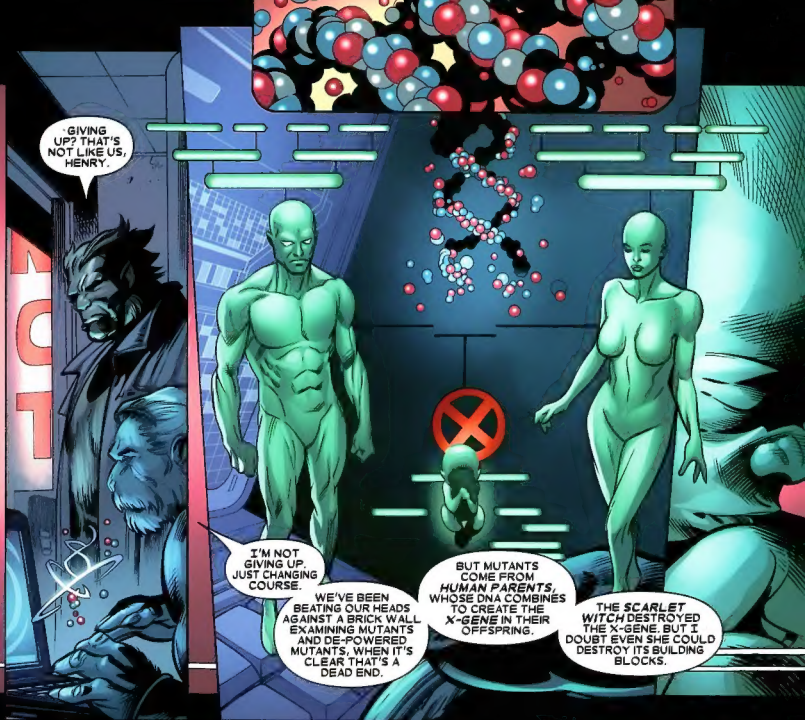
IT WAS
POINTLESS.

LOOKING
TO THE FUTURE
IS NONSENSE.
THE FUTURE IS
FLUID...SHAPED BY
WHAT WE DO
HERE. NOW.

"WE?"
DID
I HEAR THAT
CORRECTLY?

I'VE
REALIZED NO
ONE ELSE CAN HELP
ME. AT LEAST
NO ONE WHO'S
WILLING TO.

AND I'VE
REALIZED
SOMETHING ELSE.
WE'VE BEEN
WASTING
OUR TIME.



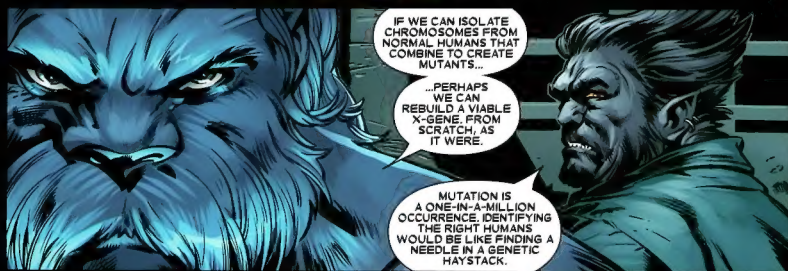
GIVING
UP? THAT'S
NOT LIKE US,
HENRY.

I'M NOT
GIVING UP.
JUST CHANGING
COURSE.

WE'VE BEEN
BEATING OUR HEADS
AGAINST A BRICK WALL
EXAMINING MUTANTS
AND DE-POWERED
MUTANTS, WHEN IT'S
CLEAR THAT'S A
DEAD END.

BUT MUTANTS
COME FROM
HUMAN PARENTS,
WHOSE DNA COMBINES
TO CREATE THE
X-GENE IN THEIR
OFFSPRING.

THE SCARLET
WITCH DESTROYED
THE X-GENE. BUT I
DOUBT EVEN SHE COULD
DESTROY ITS BUILDING
BLOCKS.



IF WE CAN ISOLATE
CHROMOSOMES FROM
NORMAL HUMANS THAT
COMBINE TO CREATE
MUTANTS...

...PERHAPS
WE CAN
REBUILD A VIABLE
X-GENE, FROM
SCRATCH, AS
IT WERE.

MUTATION IS
A ONE-IN-A-MILLION
OCCURRENCE. IDENTIFYING
THE RIGHT HUMANS
WOULD BE LIKE FINDING A
NEEDLE IN A GENETIC
HAYSTACK.



ACTUALLY
NO.

I ALREADY
KNOW WHERE
TO LOOK.

⊕ TO BE CONTINUED
IN NEW X-MEN #42!



Mike Wieringo

1963-2007

A child in spirit

A lifetime of imagination

DGP

TEAM SCAN



DRABARAS & WEZZ

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